International Seabed Authority ISBA/22/LTC/4

Legal and Technical Commission

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Selection of candidates for training programmes under plans of work for exploration

Note by the secretariat

1. At its meetings in February and March 2016, the Legal and Technical Commission will be required, under item 5 of the provisional agenda, to select candidates for training programmes offered by three contractors pursuant to their contracts for exploration.

2. In accordance with its exploration contract for polymetallic nodules, Global Sea Mineral Resources NV is offering one fellowship for a two-year programme of study for a Master's degree in marine and lacustrine science and management, to begin in September 2016.

3. In accordance with its exploration contract for cobalt-rich ferromanganese crusts, the China Ocean Mineral Resources Research and Development Association will provide five at-sea training places from July to September 2016.

4. In accordance with its exploration contract for cobalt-rich ferromanganese crusts, the Japan Oil, Gas and Metals National Corporation will provide five at-sea training places in May and June 2016.

5. Details of all three training programmes have been duly advertised and notified to members of the Authority. The detailed relevant information can be found on the website of the Authority and will also be made available to the Commission during its meeting. The secretariat will compile a summary of applications received, and this will also be provided to the Commission in due course.

6. The Commission is invited to select duly qualified candidates and alternates from developing States for the three training programmes.

7. At its most recent session, the Commission noted that it would be timely to review its current recommendations for the guidance of contractors and sponsoring States relating to training programme under plans of work for exploration (see ISBA/21/C/16, para. 6), in particular in the light of its concern over the short notice provided by some contractors with regard to training opportunities. The Commission is invited to provide further guidance in this respect.

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